

DAILY RAG
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Counterspy Exposes 'Techno-Fascism'

by Dorothy McGhee

They (the US government: CIA, police, welfare officials, defense department, et al; and private agencies: banks, insurance companies etc.) have been spying and collecting data on us for years without our knowledge. But now, we're spying on them and beginning to learn about the scope and methodology of government intelligence operations. The vehicle is a new group called Committee for Action—Research on the Intelligence Community (CARIC). And they have just put out their first bulletin, appropriately called *Counterspy* which will provide monthly a source of analysis and information on the practices, organization and objectives of US intelligence.

The first 22 page issue of *Counterspy* contains some very lively information:

- * an anonymous, but obviously well informed, letter from a former agent in the military intelligence who tells of CIA orders "to terminate with extreme prejudice", (that is bureaucratese for murder) a US defector who dropped out of military intelligence with the names of every principal agent the army had in Western Europe;
- * a fascinating, detailed account of FBI involvement in the militant arm of the San Diego Minutemen, the Secret Army Organization, which planned and executed acts of sabotage and terrorism against liberal and radical groups in that area. An FBI agent, Howard Godfrey, was actually head of the local SAO commando team which organized bombings, espionage and shootings to harass the left wing.

There is evidence that the FBI and a Colonel at Camp Pendleton were involved with the unreported transfer of munitions from the camp to the arsenal of the SAO in 1972.

- * an eight page reprint of the FBI's own summary of their domestic surveillance, the first public commentary by the FBI on their efforts in this field.

Counterspy is being published because, according to the CARIC organizers, "the American public has the right to know what is being done in their name, and they have the right to stop it. Big Brother and the age of technofascism is here."

CARIC is an unusual coalition of four former peace-activists veterans, three of whom are actually former US Intelligence

Agents. They are Tim Butz, a former organizer for Vietnam Veterans Against the War, who was in the army in Vietnam from 1966–1968; Winslow Peck, a veteran and former Military Intelligence agent for the US Air Force, who was in Vietnam from 1968 to 1969; Bart Osburn an agent for the US Army Intelligence and Security in Vietnam during 1967 and 1968 and a CIA agent until 1970; and Gary Thomas, also a former US Army Intelligence Agent. Osburn, who used to work with the CIA's Phoenix program, speaks of his former work as "an indiscriminate murder program." Peck talks about the inhibiting effects of his previous life, "you can't tell the people closest to you what you're doing."

Now, however, their work together on actively exposing US Intelligence has been liberating. "Being able to talk about it openly among ourselves has really freed us from a lot of the fears we had," says Peck. All of the former agents are, of course, under legal constraints from disclosing the classified information to which they had access while operating in Intelligence. But, as they put it, YOU don't have to reveal classified information to discuss and to expose the intelligence community. It simply gives a perspective and a basis of analysis."

The information in *Counterspy* is carefully researched from diverse but publicly available documents: newspapers, congressional hearings, budgets, army reports and their own anonymous sources. The group wants to create a central Intelligence Documentation Center, which would centralize information on US operations. They are soon coming out with a handbook on US intelligence which will describe the practical organization and objectives of hundreds of agencies. And, of course, *Counterspy* will come out monthly.

CARIC was responsible for leaking to the *Washington Post* last March the information about the Committee for the Re-election of the President hiring a George Washington University student to spy on local anti-war activities. CARIC came by this information from their own investigation of the Watergate break in, and they say that their sources also indicate

that there are at least 24 other people who were similarly hired by the Re-election Committee to conduct espionage activities. CARIC is still in the process of tracking those persons down.

Counterspy is available for 75 cents an issue, or \$6 a year for individual subscription, \$10 a year for institutions and \$75 for agencies of the government. You can become a sponsor for \$15, which includes a free subscription. Prisoners and active duty GI's may receive free copies. You should write to CARIC, Box 647, Ben Franklin Station, Washington DC 20044.

Copy of *Counterspy* will be available in HIC for those who are interested.